1998-99 BHEL has received orders worth Rs. 3900 crore till November, 98 and as of now the outstanding orders are more than Rs. 10,000 crore.

(b) For Thermal Power Station I expansion project, Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) has given the supply order to M/s. Ansaldo (Italy) being the lowest bidder, as per guidelines on International Competitive Bidding.

**Negative Growth in Core Sector**

1595. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Indian Express, dated 26th November, 1998 captioned "Core Sector growth negative";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to this trend;

(c) whether Government are giving excessive emphasis to cosmetics, toilet articles, consumer goods and non-core sector items for foreign investment;

(d) whether it is a fact that the FIPB is under pressure from various quarters to give emphasis to non-core sectors only; and

(c) the steps proposed to give emphasis to core sector investments?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The factors that have been responsible for decline in industrial growth inter alia include inadequate investment in infrastructure sectors such as power and transport, low export growth mainly on account of slowdown in world trade and slowdown in growth in certain sectors such as crude petroleum and steel.

(c) No, Sir. Out of the total approvals given to FDI projects so far (August 1991 to October 1998), infrastructrure, transportation and services sectors alone account for nearly 70 per cent.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Government has been encouraging FDI to supplement national efforts, particularly in the core sector, including infrastructure, and has put in place a liberal FDI policy with transparent guidelines for approval of FDI projects. In order to promote core sector investment the Government has deregulated coal and petroleum refinery sector; allowed 100% foreign equity in power sector under automatic approval route upto Rs. 1500 crore etc. Initiatives are underway to allow 100% FDI under automatic route in certain other areas of infrastructure such as roads & highways, vehicular tunnels, bridges, ports, etc.

**Investment in the Core Sector**

1596. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the latest Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has shown the rate of growth of six core sector industries at only 1.7 per cent in the first half of this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for the same period last year the figure was 5.9 per cent;

(c) what factors have been judged to be the cause of this fall in investment in the six core sectors taken for the study;

(d) whether any urgent turnaround of the existing investment policy is planned;

(e) whether it is also a fact that Government have neglected such core sectors in foreign investment; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The sector-wise and overall industrial growth of the six core sectors is as follows: